

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically modified nucleic acid molecule, wherein:
 - (a) the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sense strand and a separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine ~~nucleotides~~ nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;
 - (b) each strand of the nucleic acid molecule is independently 18 to 27 nucleotides in length;
 - (c) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the antisense strand of the nucleic acid molecule is complementary to a human intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM) RNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:439;
 - (d) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the sense strand of the nucleic acid molecule is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the human ICAM RNA sequence;
 - (e) about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in the sense strand and about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in the antisense strand are chemically modified with modifications independently selected from the group consisting of 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-deoxy, phosphorothioate and deoxyabasic modifications; and
 - (f) one or more of the purine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides and one or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.
14. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
15. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends ~~of the sense strand.~~
17. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in said antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides

19. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
20. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more of the purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
21. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand includes a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of the antisense strand.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the 5'-end of the antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.
31. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
32. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, or 3 of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
33. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand, sense strand, or both the antisense strand and sense strand include a 3'-overhang of 1-3 nucleotides.

34. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 33, wherein the nucleotides of the 3'-overhang are chemically modified to comprise one or more phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages, 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotides, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro ribonucleotides, 2'-deoxy ribonucleotides, universal base nucleotides, 5-C-methyl nucleotides, inverted deoxybasic moieties, or a combination thereof.
35. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further includes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages in the sense strand, the antisense strand, or both the sense strand and the antisense strand.
36. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further includes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more 2'-O-methoxyethyl (MOE) nucleotides in the sense strand, the antisense strand, or both the sense strand and the antisense strand.
37. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further includes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more locked nucleic acid (LNA) nucleotides in the sense strand, the antisense strand, or both the sense strand and the antisense strand.
38. (New) A chemically modified nucleic acid molecule comprising a sense strand and a separate antisense strand, wherein:
- (a) each strand of said nucleic acid molecule is independently 18 to 27 nucleotides in length;
 - (b) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the antisense strand of said nucleic acid molecule is complementary to a human ICAM RNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:439;
 - (c) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the sense strand of said nucleic acid molecule is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the human ICAM RNA sequence;
 - (d) the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends;
 - (e) one or more of the nucleotides present in the sense strand and one or more of the nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl modified nucleotides; and

- (f) one to ten or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand and one to ten or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
39. (New) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 38 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
40. (New) A chemically modified nucleic acid molecule, wherein:
- (a) the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sense strand and a separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;
 - (b) each strand of the nucleic acid molecule is independently 18 to 27 nucleotides in length;
 - (c) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the antisense strand of the nucleic acid molecule is complementary to a human ICAM RNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:439;
 - (d) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the sense strand of the nucleic acid molecule is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the human ICAM RNA sequence;
 - (e) at least 35% of the nucleotides of each strand of said nucleic acid molecule comprise modified nucleotides having a modification selected from the group consisting of 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-deoxy, phosphorothioate and deoxyabasic modifications;
 - (f) at least one of said modifications is a 2'-O-methyl modification; and
 - (g) at least two of said modifications are different from each other.
41. (New) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 40 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
42. (New) A method of modulating the expression of human ICAM gene in a cell, comprising administering the chemically modified nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 to

the cell under conditions suitable for modulating the expression of ICAM gene in the cell.

43. (New) A method of modulating the expression of human ICAM gene in a cell, comprising, administering the chemically modified nucleic acid molecule of claim 40 to the cell under conditions suitable for modulating the expression of ICAM gene in the cell.